

Story #558 (not on tape, but dictated) Narrator: Filiz Kiygı [Erol]

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The Gardener's Three Daughters and the Sultan

Once there was and once there wasn't a sultan who liked to walk through the streets of his city at night. In order not to be seen by the people during these walks, he determined that all those in the city must put out the lights in their houses. Accordingly, the sultan's crier [tella] went ahead of time throughout the city, shouting, "All the lights must be put out, by order of the sultan!"

Now, everyone in the city obeyed this order except the three daughters of a gardener who lived at the very edge of the city. These three had not obeyed the order because they made lace to sell and wished to work that evening on their lace. They had carefully covered the windows of the house to hide the light, but still the light could be seen outside.

During his walk, the sultan noticed the light coming from the windows, and he was very angry because his order had not been obeyed. He came close to one of the windows to see what was going on inside. He could not see, but he could hear the three daughters talking.

The oldest girl, not knowing that the sultan was listening, said boldly, "If only the sultan's son would marry me, I would make a huge carpet for him, a carpet so big that even after all the soldiers of the sultan had sat on it, there would still be room left for others."

The second girl said, "That's all very well, but think what I could do! If only the sultan's son would marry me, I would cook a huge

the light
in city

meal, a feast so large that even after all the sultan's soldiers had eaten their fill, there would still be food for others."

The third girl looked up from the lace she was making. "Oh, my sisters, if the sultan's son would only marry me, I would give him children--such children!--a son and a daughter whose hair would be like gold and whose teeth would be like pearls."

*gardeners
to his father
63, 64*

The sultan left the window, but the next day he sent his man to the gardener's house. "I have come at the command of the sultan," he said, "to fetch the eldest daughter. She must come with me to the sultan's palace."

Will she, nill she, the girl must go. When she came before the sultan, he said, "I am told that you make carpets. As soon as you have made a carpet large enough to seat all of my soldiers and three or five more, you will become the wife of my son." And the girl was put to work at an immense loom. But, in truth, she could not make a carpet of any size at all, even a small one.

At the end of the month, the sultan sent for her and asked her to bring what she had finished. She had finished not a single knot of the carpet, and she appeared before him empty-handed. "What is this?" he said. "Where is the carpet you have been making?"

The girl cried, with her two eyes like two fountains. "My sultan, I could not do it. But if I could do whatever I wished, I would not wish to be a gardener's daughter!"

"You will not return to the gardener's house," the sultan said. "Instead, you will go to prison!" And the girl was indeed imprisoned.

The following day, the sultan sent his man again to the gardener's house. "I have come at the command of the sultan," he said, "to fetch the middle daughter. She must come with me to the sultan's palace."

Now, the eldest sister had not come home from the sultan's palace, and who knew whether the second girl would come home, either? Still, she must go, and so she went. When she came before the sultan, he said, "I am told that you are an unusually good cook. As soon as you have prepared a meal large enough to feed all of my soldiers and three or five more, you will become the wife of my son." And the girl was sent to the kitchen, where she was provided with all the foodstuffs and all the servants she needed. But, in truth, she could not make a meal of any size at all, even a small one.

At the end of a month, the girl had still not prepared the meal the sultan had ordered, so he sent for her. "What is this?" he said. have you not prepared the meal for my soldiers?"

The girl cried, with her two eyes like two fountains. "My sultan, I could not do it. But if I could do whatever I wished, I would not wish to be a gardener's daughter!"

"You will not return to the gardener's house," the sultan said. "Instead, you will go to prison!" And the girl was indeed imprisoned.

The following day, the sultan sent his man again to the gardener's house. "I have come at the command of the sultan," he said, "to fetch the youngest daughter. She must come with me to the sultan's palace."

Now, the youngest daughter was beautiful, and good, besides, as soon as the sultan saw her, he said, "You are to marry my son. the will of God, you will produce children."

The two were married, and, as God would have it, nine months later, the girl bore two children, a boy and a girl, each with hair like gold and teeth like pearls. But before the sultan's son had seen the children, the girl's jealous sisters had sent a witch [cadı karı] to her room. As

*changed subtitle to
for baby*
*Body reflects
in orals
with cum*
the young mother lay sleeping, the witch opened a box she was carrying and, taking out a kitten and a puppy, she put them into the babies' beds and tucked the babies into the box and took them with her. She walked and walked until she came to a river. She set the box afloat in the river and then she returned to the prison to report to the evil sisters that the children had been disposed of.

*Abandonment of
children*

The sultan's son, eager to see his children, had hurried to the room and had found his wife asleep. In the babies' beds were no babies at all, but a kitten and a puppy. Without waiting a moment, the prince sent for the sultan. When the sultan saw that the young girl had produced not two beautiful babies but a kitten and a puppy, was he angry! Immediately, he the girl imprisoned. There, she cried and cried, not only for herself for her lost babies.

Meanwhile, the river had carried the box down the river to a mill owned by a giant. As soon as the giant had opened the box, he had taken the babies to his house to be fattened for his table. But the giant's wife was a kind-hearted woman, and instead of cooking the children, she hid them well, and cooked wild-animal meat for the giant.

As the children grew, the giant's wife cared for them, and the giant never knew. At last, when the children had grown tall, they asked her, "Mother, we have grown and grown, but we still do not look like you. Why is that?"

The giant's wife told them then about the box and about how they had been brought to the giant's house. "But you must leave, now," she said. "You have grown so much that I can hide you no longer. Here is a hair from the giant's beard; I cut it last night while he was sleeping. Take this hair and keep it safe. Run, now, and be sure you have crossed

*Angry
effect*
65-61

*Running water
an impossibly
barrier to
same super-
creature*

66

the bridge before the giant catches you. If he catches you before you cross the bridge, he will eat you, but if you can cross the bridge safely, he will be unable to harm you. If you need help, set the hair in front of you, and help will come."

They kissed her hands and then they ran, ran, to reach the bridge. The giant ran, too, but he was unable to catch them before they had crossed the bridge. When they were well away from the bridge, they sat down to rest. "What shall we do now?" they asked each other. And then they remembered the hair from the giant's beard. As soon as they had laid the hair on the ground before them, a huge Arap appeared, with one lip on the ground and the other in the sky.

with regard to creature

"Ask what you will, and I will provide it," he said.¹ Both the boy and the girl were afraid.

At last, the boy said, "We wish only your good health."

And again, "Ask what you will, and I will provide it," the Arap said.

And again, "We wish only your good health," answered the boy.

"My health is for me," said the Arap. "Ask what you will, and I will provide it."

This time, the boy said, "We do not know where to go from here."

"Ah," said the Arap. "Here. I will give you three hairs. Burn them one by one, and you will reach the right place." As soon as he had given them the hairs, he disappeared.

*magic
objekt*

The boy burned one of the hairs. Immediately, a white horse appeared in front of them. They mounted the horse, and the horse carried them to the palace garden and then disappeared. They burned the second hair, and an old woman appeared. "You are the children of the sultan's son," she said, and she told them all that had happened to them. "Before the sun

*Horse,
Supernatural*

¹The expression "Dile benden ne dilersin" used here is traditionally associated with a wish-granting otherworldly figure; at least twice, it must be answered by "I wish only your good health" before a request is stated.

rises tomorrow, burn the third hair. A black cock will appear. You are to take the cock over there beneath the sultan's son's window and cut its throat." As soon as she had finished speaking, the old woman disappeared.

Early the next morning, the prince's children burned the last hair. As the old woman had promised, a black cock appeared, a cock as black as jet. Carrying the cock to a spot directly beneath the window of the sultan's son, they cut its throat. Immediately, the cock began to cry, "They have cut off my head!"

The sultan's son heard the cock crying, and he leaned out of the window. When he saw the cock with its head cut off, he was surprised, and he asked, "How can a cock cry after its head has been cut off?"

The children answered, "You believed that your wife had given birth to a kitten and a puppy. Why didn't you believe the cock's cry?"

The prince knew then that these were indeed his own children, and he called them to him and embraced them. Then he ordered his wife released from prison. Also, he demanded that the two jealous sisters be brought.

When the two sisters appeared before him, he asked, "Which will you have, forty swords or forty horses?²" But before the two had had time to answer "Forty horses," the prince's children begged their father to spare the sisters' lives, and to forgive them but to imprison them for the rest of their lives. The prince granted their request, and the sisters were taken off to prison.

As for the prince and his wife and the two children, they lived in happiness together. May we be as fortunate as they.

²The expression "kırk satırını kırk katırını" used here offers the villains a choice between execution by sword and execution by being pulled apart bodily by the whipped horses to which they had been tied (one leg to one horse, one arm to another horse, and so forth).